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One actor, 11 roles. "Holy Motors" reviewed.

## TODAY

**Informal Classes**  
Registration is now open for spring informal classes offered by the University. UT admission is not required and registration is available online. Classes range from free to \$365 for a certificate course; the average is \$76.

**Food-for-Fines**  
The University libraries will be waiving \$5 fines per item of nonperishable food brought in as part of their Food-for-Fines program. Contributions can be made from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in PCL 2.122 and other library locations.

**Harps-a-Playing**  
The UT Harp Ensemble presents a noon-hour performance of holiday music, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Fine Arts Library (DFA 2.204).

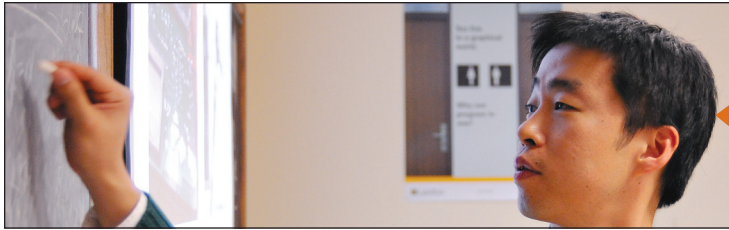
**APD etching**  
The Austin Police Department will offer free VIN etching on vehicles from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the HEB store on 7112 Ed Bluestein Blvd.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**In 1921**  
On Dec. 6, the Irish Free State was declared, marking Ireland's official independence from the United Kingdom and the British Empire.



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International students find support in ESL program.  
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PAGE 10

### TEXAN IN-DEPTH

## Policies may deter sexual assault survivors

By **Andrew Messamore**

Student survivors of sexual assault may find themselves wrapped in red tape if they choose to seek justice by reporting their assault to the University.

Because of UT's interpretation of state and federal statutes on the privacy of student records, UT will not inform students sexually assaulted by another student if their alleged perpetrator has been reported for other instances of assault on campus and will not provide records on the status of a UT investigation to either party until its completion.

The Daily Texan published two opinion columns on these

and other UT policies last month. A UT alumna and administrative researcher wrote about policies that frustrate and inhibit support for student survivors at UT. A member of UT's Voices Against Violence wrote in response to alert students to the resources that are available to assault survivors.

In the first column, Katelyn Sack said the University fails to provide a community of trust for survivors by denying them access to investigation records and valuable information about their reporting options.

Sack is a writer and political scientist at the University of Virginia researching administrative decision-making. She worked at

the U.Va. Women's Center from 2002 to 2004 and has had additional advocacy experience as a volunteer and teacher.

"Shame often keeps survivors silent," Sack stated in her column. "But the shame belongs to UT for its inadequate response to rape. UT's moral imperative to assist injured students should be even more obvious when students are injured by other members of the same community of trust, but here the University has dropped the ball."

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, close to 44 percent of sexual assault survivors nationwide choose not to report or seek legal solutions.

In all investigations, the Uni-

versity's interpretation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, FERPA, legally restricts the University from releasing records related to an investigation to students, including the students involved in the case.

Jeffery Graves, Associate Vice President for Legal Affairs, said the University's policy was mandated by federal guidelines and not up to an individual interpretation.

"There is nothing ambiguous about FERPA in this regard and thus nothing to interpret," Graves said. "The disclosure may only include the final results of the disciplinary

**POLICIES** continues on page 5



**Katelyn Sack**

UT alumna and administrative researcher at the University of Virginia

### FOOTBALL

## Catching up with Colt



**Elisabeth Dillon** | Daily Texan file photo

Colt McCoy, who served as an honorary captain before Texas' win over Iowa State last month, went 45-7 as a starting quarterback for the Longhorns. He's currently backing up rookie Brandon Weeden as a member of the Cleveland Browns.

*See exclusive interview on page 6*

### UNIVERSITY



**Pu Ying Huang** | Daily Texan Staff

Chief of UTPD Robert Dahlstrom will be retiring in May after serving as head of the department for seven years.

## UTPD chief to retire; replacement search on

By **David Maly**

The search is on for a new University of Texas Police Department chief after the current chief, Robert Dahlstrom,

announced he will retire this May.

Bob Harkins, associate vice president for campus safety and security, said the

**CHIEF** continues on page 2

### CAMPUS

## Belo Center to acquire custom-made news boxes

By **Bobby Blanchard**

Three months after announcing intentions to place a Daily Texan news box in front of the Belo Center for New Media, the College of Communication is now saying it hopes to install specially designed and built boxes by January.

College of Communication spokesperson Laura Byerley said the college accepted three bids and will pick a contractor to construct the box next week. Normally Texas Student Media, the entity that owns The Daily Texan, provides boxes to locations free of charge.

"We're hoping they'll be

installed by the first day of school in the spring semester," Byerley said. "The news boxes are being designed. There isn't anything new to report at this time."

In September, Wanda Cash, the assistant director of the School of Journalism, asked college officials for a Daily Texan news box in front of UT's newest building. Assistant dean Janice Daman told Cash it was the College of Communication's policy to not have any news boxes, signage or paper in front of or in the Belo Center for New Media, the building that hosts the journalism school, for environmental

**BOXES** continues on page 2

### #TXLEGE2013

## Bill aims to standardize transferring universities



By **Alexa Ura**

A bill filed for the upcoming legislative session could standardize the process for students transferring between Texas colleges and universities.

The bill, filed by state Rep. Dan Branch, R-Dallas, would create a statewide transfer compact program between institutions of higher education to facilitate the process of transferring coursework to count toward a degree.

Currently, institutions maintain specific transfer agreements that are not uniform across the state.

Two years ago, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, which oversees the state's higher education institutions, launched the Tuning Texas project, a similar initiative. Tuning Texas is a voluntary transfer compact program between some community colleges and universities.

Similar to Branch's proposal, the project designates universal courses framed around objectives identified by faculty from universities and community colleges. The compact requires participating institutions to apply all courses designated by the compact toward a student's degree.

Branch's bill would implement these statewide transfer compacts as mandatory for all institutions and require the development of transfer compacts for all other majors by May 31, 2014.

THECB spokesperson Dominic Chavez said it has been difficult to get all universities to sign off on standardized compact agreements — a debate that could occur during the legislative session.

"Ultimately, the only way this is going to work is if ev-

**CREDITS** continues on page 2

## DOUBLE COVERAGE

Your number one source for Longhorn Football Season Review and Bowl Preview as a special addition to The Daily Texan . **December 7**









NEWS BRIEFLY

Ship sinks off coast of Southern Netherlands

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — Rescuers say four crew members have died and seven are still missing in the icy waters of the North Sea, after a cargo ship collided with another vessel and sank off the Dutch coast Wednesday night.

The 485-foot Baltic Ace collided with the 440-foot container ship Corvus J near busy shipping lanes some 40 miles off the coast of the Southern Netherlands. The Baltic Ace, carrying a cargo of cars, had a crew of 24, some of whom may be in the icy water.

Coast Guard spokesman Marcel Oldenburger says four people were plucked dead from the sea and the search is continuing for those who are missing.

Thirteen sailors were rescued alive after the collision Wednesday night.

French chateau razed entirely ‘by mistake’

PARIS — Residents of a sleepy French village in Bordeaux have been left dumbfounded after discovering their local 18th-century chateau was completely bulldozed “by mistake.”

The mayor’s office in Yvrac said Wednesday that workers who were hired to renovate the grand 140,000-square-foot manor and raze a small building on the same estate in southwest France mixed them up. Local media reported that the construction company misunderstood the renovation plans of the current owner, Russian businessman Dmitry Stroskin, to clean up the manor and restore it to its former baroque glory.

Stroskin was away when the calamity occurred and returned home to discover his chateau, a local treasure boasting a grand hall that could host some 200 people, as well as a sweeping stone staircase — was nothing but rubble.

He told them he plans to build an exact replica of lost manor on the site.

Serbia’s ambassador to NATO leaps to death

BRUSSELS — Serbia’s ambassador to NATO was chatting and joking with colleagues in a multistory parking garage at Brussels Airport when he suddenly strolled to a barrier, climbed over and flung himself to the ground below, a diplomat said.

By the time his shocked colleagues reached him, Branimir Milinkovic was dead.

His motives are a mystery. Three diplomats who knew Milinkovic said he did not appear distraught in the hours leading up to his death Tuesday night. He seemed to be going about his regular business, they said, picking up an arriving delegation of six Serbian officials who were to hold talks with NATO, the alliance that went to war with his country just 13 years ago.

“It was indeed a suicide,” Ine Van Wymersch of the Brussels prosecutor’s office said. She said no further investigation was planned.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release details, said they knew of no circumstances — private or professional — that would have prompted him to take his own life. Milinkovic, 52, had mentioned to colleagues at diplomatic functions that he was unhappy about living apart from his wife, a Serbian diplomat based in Vienna, and their 17-year-old son.

— Compiled from Associated Press reports

Islamists fight Morsi opponents

By Aya Batrawy & Hamza Hendawi  
Associated Press

CAIRO — Egypt descended into political turmoil Wednesday over the constitution drafted by Islamist allies of President Mohammed Morsi. At least 211 people were wounded as supporters and opponents battled each other with firebombs, rocks and sticks outside the presidential palace.

Wednesday’s clashes began when thousands of Morsi’s Islamist supporters descended on an area near the presidential palace where some 300 of his opponents were staging a sit-in. The Islamists, members of Morsi’s Muslim Brotherhood, chased the protesters away from their base outside the palace’s main gate and tore down their tents. The Islamists portrayed their attack on opposition protesters as defense of the revolution.

The clashes outside the presidential palace in Cairo’s Heliopolis district marked an escalation in the deepening crisis. It was the first time supporters of rival camps fought each other since last year’s anti-Mubarak uprising, when the authoritarian leader’s loyalists sent sword-wielding supporters on horses and camels into



Hassan Ammar | Associated Press  
Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi’s supporters, background, and opponents, foreground, clash outside the presidential palace, in Cairo, Egypt on Wednesday. The clashes began when thousands of Islamist supporters of Morsi descended on the area around the palace where some 300 of his opponents were staging a sit-in.

Cairo’s Tahrir square in what became one of the uprising’s bloodiest days.

The large scale and intensity of the fighting marked a milestone in Egypt’s rapidly entrenched schism, pitting Morsi’s Brotherhood and ultra-conservative Islamists in one camp, against liberals, leftists and Christians in the other. The violence spread

to other parts of the country later Wednesday.

Compounding Morsi’s woes, four of his advisers resigned, joining two other members of his 17-member advisory panel who have abandoned him since the crisis began.

The opposition is demanding that Morsi rescind the decrees giving him nearly

unrestricted powers and shelve the controversial draft constitution the president’s Islamist allies rushed through last week in a marathon, all-night session shown live on state TV.

The huge scale of the opposition protests has dealt a blow to the legitimacy of the new charter, which opponents contend allows

religious authorities too much influence over legislation, threatens to restrict freedom of expression and opens the door to Islamist control over day-to-day life.

If the referendum goes ahead as scheduled and the draft constitution is adopted, elections for parliament’s lawmaking lower chamber will be held in February.

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VIEWPOINT

## Four isn't necessarily a magic number

Fall graduation lacks the pomp and circumstance occasioned by spring commencement, but for students graduating in December, the event is no less monumental. With or without fireworks, graduates will leave the familiarity of campus to confront the challenges and opportunities waiting for them beyond it. That they're doing so in December rather than May might not make much of a difference for students, but it does make a difference for the University's much-hyped four-year graduation rate. However, the four-year designation itself is somewhat arbitrary.

The administration's goal is to have 70 percent of students graduate within four years of their enrollment at UT. Currently, around 70 percent of students graduate within five years, but four-year rates hover around 50 percent. To graduate more students more quickly, the Task Force on Undergraduate Graduation Rates, which was established in 2011 by UT President William Powers, Jr., suggested in its Feb. 15, 2012 report that it may be most effective to focus on students who miss graduating within four years by only one semester — many of whom may be walking across the stage this Saturday. According to the report, "For UT Austin to hit a graduation rate of 70 percent in four years, it would need to lower the time-to-degree [by] a single semester for about 800 students and two semesters for another 400. From

that perspective, the task of achieving a 70 percent four-year graduation rate is much less daunting."

The most recent data cited in the report, which focuses on students who entered college in fall 2006, shows that 50.6 percent of students graduated within four years. A semester later, more than 60 percent had graduated, thanks to the 750 or so who participated in fall commencement. According to the report's logic, if those 750 students could have graduated a semester earlier, the University would be 10 percent closer to reaching its graduation rate goal.

This change would save students the \$5,000 or so they spent on their extra semester and could potentially make available classroom seats for more incoming students. But the report fails to acknowledge that the same argument could be made for increasing 3½-year graduation rates. With increasing opportunities for high school students to earn transferable college credit prior to enrolling at a university, three year or 3½-year college careers are a viable option for many students. If the University enhances summer classes, as the report recommends, this option could become even more accessible to students looking to save time and money on their undergraduate education.

The Task Force's report also neglects to explain why four years represent the perfect amount of time to spend in col-

Changes in higher education are challenging the idea that there is a "correct" number of years in which to graduate.

lege. While in the past it may have taken four years to fit in all the coursework required for degree completion, changes in higher education that allow students to transfer credit from community colleges and online classes — changes the University is helping catalyze, thanks to its recent investment in EdX — are challenging the idea that there is a "correct" number of years in which to graduate.

In an editorial published in the *Texan* on June 10, President Powers was quoted saying, "We fully recognize that there are things that happen during four years. People change their minds, they want to pursue something else. It is not our philosophy that there is only one way through this university." Our conclusion: Students graduating this weekend, whether they are doing so early or late, will still be receiving the same degrees as their friends who graduated this past May or will walk the stage next spring — give or take several thousand dollars and a few months. Ultimately, the choice is theirs.

GALLERY



Lauren Moore | Daily Texan Cartoonist

## Holiday season doesn't need a reason

By Mac McCann

Daily Texan Columnist

As soon as Thanksgiving ends, we begin the Christmas shopping season. To celebrate the birth of a man who said to "sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor," we spend more of our money than we do during any other time of the year.

We could debate forever whether consumerism has taken over the holiday season, if Nativity scenes should be displayed on public property, if "happy holidays" is the proper greeting or if there's a "war on Christmas." But bickering misses the whole point of the season. While I'm not completely certain, I imagine that Jesus would prefer his birthday to be celebrated by loving thy neighbor as thyself, rather than arguing about the decorations.

We also need to recognize that in the American melting pot, December is much more than just Christmas season. It's a time of holidays for many different religions and cultures. As Daniel Munoz of the Texas Secular Humanists points out, this country doesn't belong exclusively to Christians.

Indeed, it should be noted that even Dec. 25th doesn't belong exclusively to Christians. Despite the popular saying, Jesus isn't even the original "reason for the season." The day we celebrate Christmas, Dec. 25th, coincides with the winter solstice on the Julian calendar — and not by accident. In ancient agrarian societies, the changing of seasons was of huge importance. Even Pope Benedict XVI recognized that the Christmas holiday "acquired its definitive form in the fourth century when it replaced the Roman Feast of the Sol Invictus." Even before the birth of Jesus and the Sol Invictus, Romans celebrated Saturnalia, a festival in honor of their god Saturn, around Dec. 25th.

Regardless of the origins of Christmas, we can't forget that other holidays are also celebrated during this time. There's no reason why we shouldn't make this "the most wonderful time of the year" for people of all beliefs. For Daley Epstein, a Plan II, history and business junior, "the holiday season and the holiday of Hanukkah hold separate meanings." She enjoys practicing the ancient traditions of Judaism and celebrating the religious aspects of Hanukkah with her family and friends. But she also enjoys

There's no reason why we shouldn't make this "the most wonderful time of the year" for people of all beliefs.

the holiday season in general, which she considers a secular concept: "The ideas of holiday cheer, philanthropy and spending time with friends and family align with my religious beliefs and are customary for Hanukkah, but I additionally value their presence during this time of year for their unifying qualities, religion aside."

While he personally celebrates Hanukkah, freshman Corey Schneider notes, "I don't think that the specific holidays mean as much as their accompanying 'holiday spirit.' I think that the holidays are a designated time to be with family and enjoy the spirit of family, something we often overlook in our busy daily lives. I think everyone should engage in the holiday spirit and enjoy their family, regardless of their religion."

Munoz agrees: "Non-Christians in America should be free not to celebrate Christmas, but everybody can get behind the season's secular message: peace on Earth, goodwill towards all." While he is an atheist, Munoz greatly values the season's spirit of giving, suggesting, "Why don't we follow the biblical Magi and celebrate Christmas by giving to the poor?"

Hannah Mery, a Plan II freshman, does believe that Christmas "definitely is a Christian holiday," but she doesn't think that non-Christians shouldn't enjoy the holidays. The most important thing, she says, is "coming together with family and celebrating each other, no matter what our beliefs."

Regardless of religion, give "peace on earth and goodwill to men" a chance. Help those in need. Spend time with those you care about. Relax. Enjoy yourself. And hopefully, as Epstein advised, we can "remember that the values of the holiday season are something that shouldn't be limited to this time of year, but something we should strive to engage in year-round."

McCann is a Plan II freshman from Dallas.

## Alter your reality for the better

By Laura Wright

Daily Texan Columnist

Madeline Tuckfield has always lamented her hometown's lack of urban legends.

"I love Austin so much, it's such a cool vibrant city, but we don't have any monsters or ghosts," said Tuckfield. "New York has all sorts of crocodiles-in-the-sewer type of legends, and I want that for Austin."

This desire for ghost stories along Guadalupe led Tuckfield, along with UT students Lance Lowrie, a senior Radio-Television-Film major, and Stephen Robinson, a junior Radio-Television-Film major, to launch the alternate reality game (ARG) "Where is Alice?"

What are alternate reality games, exactly? The genre is new enough to be defined in a variety of ways, and if you're unfamiliar with the concept, the words "alternate reality game" may conjure up images like costumed "Dungeons and Dragons" players and pixelated families from "The Sims." If you also thought of the dusty pages and plot lines of the make-your-own-mystery books from your elementary school library, you'd be closer to the truth.

ARGs are meant to be massive, multi-player "games" that begin in the real world but quickly jump to various media platforms like websites or television shows. They are supposed to maintain a certain "this is not a game" aesthetic, allowing players to suspend their disbelief and treat the game like real life. The largest (and most successful) ARGs are elaborate promotional stunts for movies and video games like "The Dark Knight" and "Halo 2." But, in certain cases, they have the ability to be much more — and do much more good.

In the case of the "Halo 2" promotional ARG, called "ilovebees," the game began when jars of honey from an unknown woman were inexplicably sent to members of the gaming community. This, paired with some crafty subliminal messaging in the "Halo 2" promotional commercials, led fans of the game to discover ilovebees.com, which appeared to be an amateur beekeeping website that had been hacked by an unknown entity. Soon, details of the "hacking" (part of a pre-written fictional storyline) were leading fans of the video game to real-life payphones, where those fans were further unraveling the backstory by receiving anonymous calls. In the end, the clues led select participants to a movie theater, where they could play an advance copy of "Halo 2."

"Where is Alice" is a decidedly humbler effort. You may have seen the posters around campus, which feature pictures of Alice underneath the bolded word "MISSING." The posters might have led you to a Facebook page, where a link to the Wikipedia page for "alternate reality game" and a credit to Streetlight Entertainment LLC — Tuckfield, Lowrie and Robinson's 2-week-old production company — serve as hints that Alice, whoever she is, is not actually missing. (The Alice of the promotional pictures is in reality a local Austin actress, but should you see her in real life and ask her about the game, she has been instructed to begin crying about the loss of her twin sister.)

Tuckfield said she had some reservations about staging a kidnapping as the basis for the game, which has since evolved into a narrative about the underground tunnels at UT and seems to be headed in a "there are supernatural monsters underground" direction. "The technical goal, yes, is to create a monster," admitted Tuckfield. But she defends the kidnapping farce by pointing to the less-than-realistic aspects of the game — for instance, who hand-distributes "missing" posters for a person as if he or she were a lost puppy?

Admittedly, I have no plans to play "Where is Alice," and I would have preferred a game that didn't hinge on a fictional kidnapping. But I'm excited about the presence of an ARG on the UT campus, because I hope it will lead more students to think about the possibilities of ARGs, which can be so much more than fictional conspiracy theories.

As an example, Jane McGonigal, a game designer who worked on the "ilovebees" project and specializes in ARGs, has created a game called "superbetter" that uses the same ideas about crossing media platforms and community engagement to help people heal from problems like depression, anxiety and physical injury. Created by McGonigal as she struggled to recover from a concussion, the game sets small, real-life goals for players: look out a window, take a walk around the block, call an old friend. It involves friends and family as "allies" that help you increase your score.

Though "superbetter" may not be understood as an ARG in the same way as "ilovebees" or "Where is Alice?" it certainly relies on real-life events. And, unlike those games, it ultimately concerns not gameplay, but reality. Alice may not be missing, but that doesn't mean we don't have real problems to solve. Maybe we can start an ARG in which our football team is actually winning. Who knows — it might just spill over into reality.

Wright is a Plan II and biology junior from San Antonio.

LEGALESE

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# POLICIES *continues from page 1*

proceeding conducted by [UT] with respect to that alleged crime.”

In an interview with the Daily Texan, Sack said FERPA allows other possibilities for complaint response besides the policy now used by the University.

“All UT has to do under FERPA to ensure survivors can access their full complaint records is have both parties sign off on this disclosure prior to an investigation,” Sack said. “The institutional incentive to not give complainants and respondents alike this opportunity is again a self-interested one.”

Sack said the University reduces its liability by taking a broad interpretation of FERPA. For example, denying survivors and respondents access to records such as reports of previous sexual assaults by an alleged perpetrator reduces the chance of a lawsuit against UT for not punishing a repeatedly violent student.

Attempted and completed sexual assaults occur at a rate of 35 per every 1,000 female college students per year, according to the Department of Justice.

“College rape is a multi-million dollar liability, partially for a large institution like UT,” Sack said, noting that at a large school at UT, statistics indicate hundreds of students are assaulted every year. “It’s actually astounding that no one has won a multi-million dollar settlement against UT relating to a rape complaint yet.”

Student survivors can use criminal or civil courts as well as an internal University system to report a sexual assault.

The Office of the Dean of Students does not inform students of civil court options, such as suing an attacker for damages, if a student reports to the office that he or she has been sexually assaulted.

Civil cases have a much higher conviction rate in sexual assault cases than criminal cases, partially because of the lower burden of proof required for conviction.

“Certainly students have civil options,” said Dean of Students Soncia Reagins-Lily. “They are not elaborated in [University policy], but through Legal Services we certainly have that conversation with them and survivors understand they have an array of options.”

Reagins-Lily said the Office of the Dean of Students refers survivors to Legal Services for Students, which informs survivors of their civil options and provides free legal counsel to students. But Legal Services cannot counsel students sexually assaulted by another student because of a conflict of interest, said Raymond Schifflett, director of Legal Services for Students.

“If it’s an assault on one student by someone who is not a currently enrolled student, then we can provide that student with a full range of legal advice,” Schifflett said. “If it was another student who had allegedly committed this act, we would not be able to assist this student directly. We would refer them to another experienced civil court attorney.”

Schifflett said under state law, all students are potential clients of attorneys provided by UT, and attorneys cannot provide legal counsel to two of their own clients against each other.

## Voices Against Violence

Outside the Office of the Dean of Students, The University has a number of resources available for survivors of sexual assault through the Voices Against Violence program launched in the Counseling and Mental Health Center in 2001.

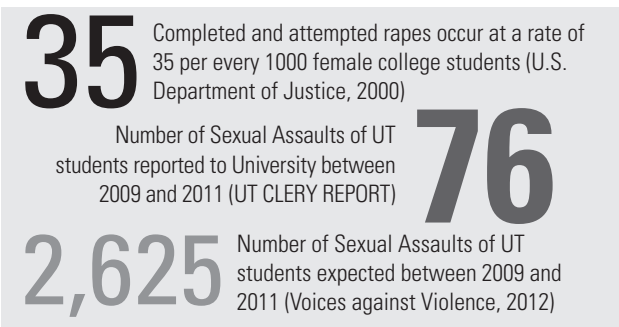
Jane Morgan Bost, associate director of the Mental Health Center, helped start the program with University support when she acquired a grant for Voices Against Violence in 2000. Since its inception, the program has provided counseling and advocacy for survivors, as well as training for thousands of students and staff at UT.

VAV does not have the ability to access criminal reporting



Pu Ying Huang | Daily Texan Staff

Sydney Wilkins is a member of UT Voices Against Violence and economics and international business junior



records, but along with Victims Services in the University Police Department, VAV provides criminal, University and civil information for survivors in case they decide to take legal action.

Bost said that while successful civil conviction might provide a feeling of social recognition and safety, most students do not pursue a lawsuit as a response to sexual assault.

“When someone comes in who has been sexually assaulted, they just aren’t interested in a lawsuit,” Bost said. “With all the clients that the VAV specialists have seen in the last 11 years, there has only been one student who has gone the civil route, and it’s not up to us to convince students otherwise.”

Since its inception, the UT chapter of VAV has provided training on sexual assault to more than 150,000 UT staff, students and others.

Bost added that it is hard for college students to acquire civil attorneys because attorneys are only likely to take a civil case if an alleged perpetrator has enough assets make the suit profitable.

Economics and international business junior Sydney Wilkins, a member of VAV and author of the second of last month’s columns, said in an interview with the Daily Texan that it was inaccurate to say UT does not provide resources to survivors.

While the system is never perfect, Wilkins said, there are many people at the University working to provide resources and community for survivors.

“There’s a lot of excitement for activists about students coming out and talking about this issue, and the impact that could have for this campus,” Wilkins said. “My hope is that people will read about these columns and hear that, yeah there are horrible things going on, but there’s a lot we can do and I want people to be optimistic about all the change that can be done.”

*Editor’s note: The Daily Texan hopes to further examine the problem of sexual assault on campus next semester. If you are a UT student or former student who has experienced sexual assault at UT, we hope to talk to you. We can discuss options to protect your privacy. Please email. enterprise.dailytexan@gmail.com.*

## CITY

# Austin more charitable during holiday season

By Taylor Hampton

Despite the increase in charitable donations during the winter months, philanthropic organizations in Austin say they are not in competition with each other, and are instead focusing on their own efforts.

Karen Frost, director of non-profit relations for I Live Here, I Give Here, said charities recognize that children’s charities will receive the bulk of donations during December, so organizations strategically plan their fundraising efforts for another month. The organization is a non-profit that promotes philanthropy in Central Texas.

Rod Caspers, director of University events, said many organizations, offices and individuals contribute to Orange Santa, a program that collects gift donations for UT faculty and students in need.

He said the program receives wide support in November and December.

“We see the request being made more at the holidays because it is the season of giving, if you will,” Caspers said.

Caspers said the program helped about 320 families and 1,000 children in 2011. He said the organization’s volunteer positions are filled every year, and some people are even on a waiting list to volunteer.

Tara Anders, director of marketing for Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, said people do not always give equally to all

charities. She said Goodwill receives more donations after the holidays because people are clearing space in their homes for new items.

“There is an increased awareness of charity giving, but that may dilute what one charity receives over another because it is a popular time to give,” Anders said.

Coats for Kids is a jacket drive that provides children living at or below the poverty level with a winter coat. In 2011, the charity collected 33,000 coats.

Dawn Breyfogle, Coats for Kids chairperson for the Austin Junior League, said as of Wednesday afternoon 31,000 coats have been collected that the organization will distribute Saturday.

Randy Allen, communication director for the Salvation Army in Austin, an international charitable organization, said the number of homeless individuals may increase during the holiday season, but it is a year-round issue.

Allen said the holiday season inspires people to give back, especially during November, December and January.

“People have a greater spirit of giving,” he said. “I know I do.”

During the fiscal year October 2010 to September 2011, the organization moved 843 individuals to stable housing.

“We’re ‘doing the most good’ and so are the other organizations, obviously,” Allen said. “We all want to, by and large, because we want human beings to be treated with dignity.”

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## FOOTBALL

## Losses, benching bother McCoy

By Chris Hummer

ARLINGTON, Texas — The Browns players file into the locker room, heading down in defeat after a crushing overtime loss to the Cowboys on Nov. 18.

The majority of the team heads directly to the showers to wash away the stains of yet another close defeat, but backup quarterback and legendary former Longhorn Colt McCoy is one of the exceptions.

McCoy, who hadn't seen a snap in the game, didn't break a sweat in his return to Texas. Instead of racing toward the soothing drops of warm water, he stood stoically next to his locker, piling on layers of clothing to combat the biting winds of a cool November Dallas afternoon.

There wasn't a teammate within 10 feet of him, and he faced away from the crowd of players on the opposite side of the room, where the young running backs and wideouts hammed it up, laughing and joking around, despite having victory snatched from them only minutes earlier.

McCoy took no part, taking the loss as hard as any starter.

"We always find a way to lose," McCoy said, disheartened by yet another defeat. The Browns are 4-8 on the year, and lost the previous four games by a combined 18 points.

McCoy hasn't played a role in any of these contests. He's stood on the sidelines holding a clipboard, relaying signals to 29-year-old rookie quarterback, Brandon Weeden.



Associated Press

After leaving Texas as the winningest college quarterback of all-time, Colt McCoy was drafted by the Cleveland Browns. He currently serves as backup quarterback for the 4-8 team after being injured last season.

McCoy is active in his role. Arms churning to send out the right call, helping Weeden make any adjustments needed at the line. But under it all, he's frustrated. It can be seen in his clenched jawline after a close loss, the same outline that used to display his 10-volt smile as he roamed the field at DKR.

"It's a hard deal, especially

when you feel like you should be playing," McCoy said. "You just got to stay positive. It's a marathon and not a sprint."

McCoy's first two seasons in the NFL were a whirlwind. After becoming college football's all-time winningest quarterback at Texas — he's now been surpassed on the list by former Boise State Bronco Kellen Moore — and

leading the Longhorns to an appearance in the 2009 BCS Championship game, the Browns drafted McCoy in the third round.

In 2010, McCoy quickly ascended to the starting role, replacing an aging Jake Delhomme to play eight games in the year. He found a reasonable level of success that season despite his team's lacking

talent. In 2011, McCoy elevated his play, throwing for 2,733 yards, 14 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. He only participated in 13 games however, as a vicious helmet-to-helmet blow by Pittsburgh's James Harrison gave him a concussion, knocking him out for the remainder of the season.

MCCOY continues on page 7

## VOLLEYBALL

## Freshman first-timers experience postseason

By Rachel Thompson

One year ago, they were stealing courtside attention on high school volleyball teams. Now, five UT freshmen are lighting up Gregory Gym, proving their talent week after week and encountering their first NCAA tournament experiences.

"They're playing like veterans," head coach Jerritt Elliott said. "It's one of the reasons that we schedule so tough at the beginning. Now they're used to playing high-level volleyball."

For Kat Brooks, Nicole Dalton, Sara Hattis, Molly McCage and Amy Neal, this season has meant a flurry of new experiences and excitement for what's to come as they enter the toughest part of the season.



Kat Brooks, Libero

"If you lose, you go home, so we really have this drive to win and to play our best every night. Gregory's been so full lately and it's been amazing."



Molly McCage, Middle Blocker

"I'm looking forward to competitive play. I feel like Florida's going to play out of their minds. I'm so glad we're home and we have so many people behind us."



Amy Neal, Libero/Outside Hitter  
"Now we just have to do everything we can. Practice is really focused and every team's good. I think we're prepared. I think it'll turn out really well for us."



Nicole Dalton, Outside Hitter/Setter

Dalton has played 90 sets for the Longhorns and started in 13 sets, earning 35 kills and tallying 56.5 points in her first year. Dalton was unavailable for comment.



Sara Hattis, Middle Blocker

"It's really exciting to be with this team because we're really special and we have a chance to do something that not many schools and teams can. Games are just unbelievable."

## FANTASY FOOTBALL

## Playoffs begin, stakes rise

By David Leffler

Like great hitters in baseball and sharp shooters in basketball, many fantasy football players go through rough patches and slumps. Although some struggle for extended periods, players tend to have breakout games when you least expect it. With fantasy football playoffs beginning this week and a lot on the line, here are a few names whose unlikely performances could propel you to a big victory:

START  
1) Jake Locker, QB  
Tennessee Titans

Locker looked dreadful against the Texans last week, throwing three interceptions and fumbling twice. However, much of his poor performance can be attributed to Houston's ability to get out in front of opponents early and force them into mistakes. There was also a silver lining in Locker's poor outing: his lone touchdown pass Sunday made it his second consecutive week with only one. I like Locker's odds this week against a weaker



Illustration by Cody Bubenik | Daily Texan Staff

Indianapolis defense.

2) Eric Decker, WR  
Denver Broncos

Over the past four games, Peyton Manning has tossed nine touchdowns. The problem for Decker is, he's only been on the receiving end of one of them. Though he has failed to reach 50 yards receiving or catching a touchdown in three of his last four games, nothing revives a player's fantasy production like a trip to Oakland. Expect Decker to break out this week against an awful Raiders' secondary.

3) DeMarco Murray, RB  
Dallas Cowboys

Murray's problem this year hasn't been a lack of production so much as it has been unreliability, as he missed six games after going down with a foot injury against Baltimore during Week 6. While he looked a little rusty, Murray was still able to rack up 83 yards and a touchdown in his return last week against the Philadelphia Eagles and can be expected to perform similarly

DAVIS continues on page 7

## FOOTBALL COLUMN

## Bowl offers Horns redemption

By Christian Corona  
Sports Editor

With as many twists and turns as the Longhorns' season took this year, they did what everyone expected them to do before the season began.

With a 5-4 record in conference play, Texas finished third in the Big 12 standings — exactly where it was picked to finish in the pre-season poll.

But just like those four losses, that won't be good enough next year. The

Longhorns still haven't completely bounced back from the 5-7 debacle that was the 2010 season. Losses of any kind to Oklahoma, especially those by more than 40 points, won't be tolerated. Baffling home losses to 7-5 squads like TCU and West Virginia won't cut it.

Texas has to win the Big 12 next year.

And a win over Oregon State in the Valero Alamo Bowl on Dec. 29 will be the first step toward making that happen. The Longhorns have a long history of using bowl victories to create momentum.

"I'm just excited to go back to a bowl. A couple of years ago we didn't get to do that," senior safety Kenny Vaccaro said. "I think we just need to win for those guys next year to create momentum for them and just go out with a bang, go out with a win."

A 2004 Rose Bowl victory over Michigan preceded a 2005 Rose Bowl triumph over USC in the national title game. Arizona State was no match for Texas in the 2008 Holiday Bowl before the Longhorns beat Ohio

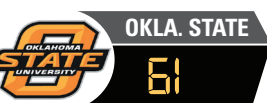
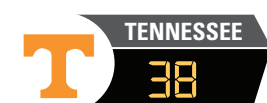
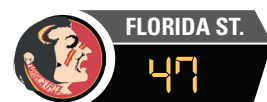
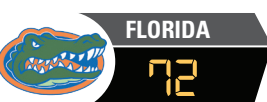
BOWL continues on page 7

## SIDELINE

## NBA



## NCAAB



## TOP TWEET

LONGHORNS  
IN THE NBALamarcus Aldridge  
18 points, 10 reboundsCory Joseph  
2 points, 2 rebounds  
and 2 assistsSPORTS  
BRIEFLYOkafor, Vaccaro  
earn Big 12 honors

For the second straight year, defensive end Alex Okafor was named to the All-Big 12 first team. Okafor was joined by fellow senior, safety Kenny Vaccaro, on the 2012 All-Big 12 first team that was released Wednesday while junior offensive guard Trey Hopkins was named to the All-Big 12 second team.

Vaccaro made 100 tackles this season and intercepted two passes while Okafor recorded 60 tackles, along with 12 sacks for loss and eight sacks—both team-highs.

Junior wide receiver Mike Davis, senior punter Alex King, senior running back D.J. Monroe, sophomore wide receiver Jaxon Shipley and freshman running back Johnathan Gray, as an offensive freshman of the year candidate, were given All-Big 12 honorable mention accolades.

— Christian Corona



# MCCOY

continues from page 6

Despite only having a little over a year under center, Cleveland's new coaching staff decided to move in a different direction in the 2012 draft. The Browns selected Weeden at No. 22 to be the team's quarterback of the future, leaving McCoy behind before he had a chance to establish himself.

"I got drafted by a different coaching staff, and they're going to bring new guys in," McCoy said. "You don't want to make any excuses or anything, but you just have to live to fight each day, and I'm in that position right now."

He's battling to stay relevant in Cleveland, but the coaching staff hasn't given him much of an opportunity. Head coach Pat Shurmur said that both quarterbacks would participate in an open competition during training camp, but it seemed to be a mere token gesture, as Shurmur named Weeden the starter only a week and a half into camp.

McCoy hasn't sniffed the field since, and his body language made it evident that the combination of not

playing and the Browns' struggles are weighing on him. His teammates commend the job he's done dealing with the situation.

"Colt's a pro's pro," said Phil Dawson, kicker and former Longhorn. "He doesn't need a pep talk from me. He's handled all of this tremendously."

McCoy's situation parallels his brother's, Case, a junior who's been the backup for much of the season at Texas. However, sophomore David Ash started and stumbled against TCU, leaving the door open for Case to seize the job.

The story ended well for Case, but it may not be the same for Colt. The Browns have invested a significant amount in Weeden, and they see him as the future of the franchise. McCoy has one year remaining on his rookie deal, but when asked to look toward his future in Cleveland, McCoy is vague, spouting words about hard work and perseverance.

But his expression says it all. His blue eyes are cold, numbed by frustration. He just wants a chance.

"I want to win," McCoy said. "I've always won. I want to be part of an environment that's winning. That's the frustration of not being able to play."

# DAVIS

continues from page 6

Sunday against Cincinnati.

## SIT

1) Philip Rivers, QB  
San Diego Chargers

One of the year's biggest fantasy disappointments, Rivers has registered three multi-turnover games in his last four outings. Things don't get any easier for him this week either, as he and the Chargers travel to Pittsburgh to face the Steelers' vicious pass rush.

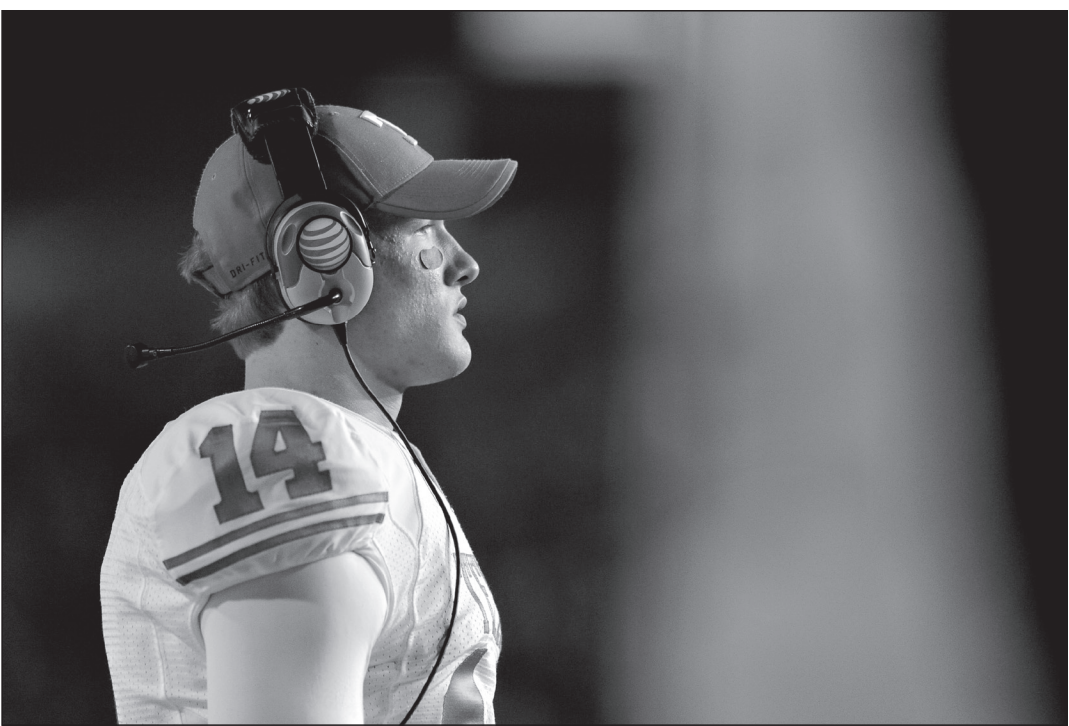
2) Vernon Davis, TE  
San Francisco 49ers

It's no wonder Davis has come out and publicly supported recently-benched quarterback Alex Smith:

Colin Kaepernick rarely throws him the ball. Davis has largely been ignored since Kaepernick took over as the team's starting quarterback, catching only two passes for 15 yards in the past two games. Things could change this week against the Dolphins, but I wouldn't count on it.

3) Miles Austin, WR  
Dallas Cowboys

While he did score a touchdown against Philadelphia on Sunday night, Austin has been quiet over the past couple weeks thanks to Dez Bryant's recent resurgence. Considering the fact that he's going up against a Bengals defense that has yielded only one touchdown reception to an opposing wide receiver over the past four games, odds are Austin won't reach the end zone this week.



After an up-and-down season with quarterback alternations between David Ash (left) and Case McCoy, the starting quarterback spot for the upcoming Alamo Bowl game, as well as next season, remains undetermined.

Elisabeth Dillon  
Daily Texan Staff

# BOWL

continues from page 6

State in the Fiesta Bowl the following year.

Texas will lose only two starters on both offense and defense before next season, and it should have a healthy Jackson Jeffcoat and Jordan Hicks returning from serious injuries. None of the Longhorns' five starting of-

fensive linemen this year are seniors. It has to be Big 12 title or bust next season.

Not only will the Longhorns be better in 2013 than they were in 2012, but many of their in-conference competitors should take a step back. Kansas State's Collin Klein, Oklahoma's Landry Jones, Baylor's Nick Florence, Texas Tech's Seth Doege and West Virginia's Geno Smith — four of them among the nation's top six

passers and the other (Klein) a Heisman finalist — are all seniors.

This year's Longhorns' defense, statistically, will go down as one of the worst in program history. But it will only lose two starters — Vaccaro and defensive end Alex Okafor, both All-Big 12 first teamers.

Who Texas' starting quarterback will be for the Alamo Bowl, much less next year's season opener against

New Mexico State, remains unclear. But the team's four leading rushers and three leading receivers will come back.

The Longhorns may have had bigger dreams than playing in the Alamo Bowl before the season started. But if they want a better postseason fate next year, something guaranteed by a Big 12 title, a win over the Beavers would go a long way toward making that happen.

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**Solution: 5 letters**

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L E T O A I O U W A T E R L A  
A R I I F L F I T S H E I E N  
I P E R B R P A T T E R N S G  
R O Y P O A I N N P E S T O E  
E C R L L S C E O C O R S O U  
T E O L F A S T N L Y A F S L  
A C V U K A C E E D Y B E L B  
M O I P T I B E C R L N R B Y  
D R S I R L G R E C I Y A R E  
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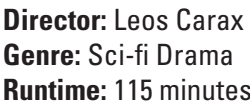
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Denis Lavant in the most repulsive of a whopping eleven roles he plays in Leos Carax's visionary "Holy Motors."

Other actors come and go based on which scenario Oscar is in, and the only constant is Edith Scob, who does warm work as Oscar's driver. Also worth mentioning is a

"Holy Motors" certainly won't be a film that everyone enjoys, and even fewer will understand it. There are an endless number of



ways to interpret many of the film's flourishes. It's hard not to see a parallel between the way Oscar experiences the key moments in so many different lives and the very art of cinematic acting, a profession in which reality becomes a lie agreed upon by all its participants. No matter how you read it, "Holy Motors" is never boring, driven by Lavant's excellent performance and the lush, well-rounded direction from Carax, making it one of the most unique — and downright excellent — films of the year.

When college students say they've experimented with alcohol, they don't mean quite the same thing as scientists might. Since human alcohol studies require strong oversight and ethical considerations, much of our scientific knowledge about our favorite poison comes from data collected using animal models rather than Saturday nights on Sixth Street. A recent study performed at UT-Austin looked at the effect of ethanol on the learning ability of fruit fly larvae. It shouldn't come as a surprise that drunken larvae (with blood alcohol content levels roughly equivalent to somewhere between 0.05 and 0.08 in humans) didn't learn as well as the sober ones.



The media went into a frenzy this past week speculating about what would be revealed during a scheduled announcement from NASA promising exciting news about the Curiosity rover on Mars. Unfortunately, the news, while significant, wasn't nearly the strong evidence for life outside of Earth that we're all still hoping for. Instead, the rover detected simple carbon

compounds, which could possibly have come from Martian life. However, it's more likely they came from a complex organic molecule that was formed by stars, arriving by way of a comet or asteroid, or simply from an inorganic molecule, neither of which would be particularly surprising to find on the surface of a planet with a thin atmosphere. NASA scientists will continue to investigate the source of these compounds and will likely come away with a better understanding of the Martian surface, but the results are unlikely to provide a perspective-altering discovery of life on another planet.

Sophomore Sylvia Hinojosa has practiced yoga before, but was oblivious of its advantages in terms of stress management.

“Usually, I run to relieve

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With the free yoga sessions that Art of Living UT offers on campus as well as the various yoga studios

located around Austin there is no need for students to repress all of their stress until winter break. Instead of taking a study break on the floor of the PCL at 4 a.m., take a break at a more decent hour and do some yoga.

Du said he hasn't ventured out into the Austin community very much

yet, but credited that more to his personality than to his language skills. When he does go out, he is accompanied by other Chinese graduate students. Though Yun has spent some time exploring Austin, he spends most of his time at home with his wife, who is expecting a child. When at home, the couple tries to speak English, but the clumsiness of

speaking their non-native language often trips them into speaking Korean. One of the main goals of the orientation program for international students is to make them aware of the importance of speaking English often and outside the classroom. "Cause it doesn't just happen by magic," Smith said. Unfortunately, neither does finding a community.

## ESL *continues from page 10*

we're just one of a variety of factors that helps [ESL students] be successful with language learning. It's just not something that happens in a class, it's gonna happen as individuals integrate into the Austin community and the campus community and the department community."

Du said he hasn't ventured out into the Austin community very much

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Edited by Will Shortz      No. 1101

ACROSS

1, 4 & 9 Sports news of 1919

14 Part of E.N.T.

15 Stand for a sitting

16 Part of a waste reduction strategy

17, 18 & 19 Toys "R" Us department

20 Figure in Raphael's "The School of Athens"

22 Painter's aid

24 Drawer at a doctor's office?

26 Not moved from the original location

30 Lib. (U.K. party member)

31 Times or Century

33 Some French?

34, 37 & 39 Fredric March's last film

41 Gallimard, protagonist of "M. Butterfly"

42 Something to contemplate

44 Tributary of the High Rhine

45, 47 & 48 Like some student activities

49 Third of November?

50 Like bright red cardinals

52 Egyptian headress feature

54 Children of (descendants of Jacob)

56 Goldsmith, for one

60 Like "Wedding Crashers" or "Bridesmaids"

63 A current flows into it

64, 67 & 69 Role that garnered 12 consecutive Emmy nominations, 1985-96

70 Brother of Moses

71 Beauty pageant judging criterion

72 Iraq war danger, for short

73, 74 & 75 "Invisible" part of a distribution list ... or a hint to this puzzle's theme

DOWN

1 Urban cacophony

2 ... column (construction piece)

3 Toward the back

4 Organic compound with a double-bonded oxygen

5 Isl. south of Corsica

6 " ... mio"

7 Princess known as the Defender of the Eljians

8 Declined, as stocks

9 Composer Dominick whose name means "silver" in Italian

10 Almost reaches

11 Musical syllable before and after "da"

12 Enzyme suffix

13 " ... Miz"

14 Comparatively neat

23 Racket

25 Feds

27 Model

28 Aquarium fish

29 Program presenter

31 N.F.L. record-holder for consecutive starts

32 Embarrassing spelling mistake?

34 Fountain name

35 Spells

36 Sign with an arrow

38 Mangle

40 "Tales of the City" novelist

43 Make-up person?

46 Ute or Cree

51 What's put before the carte?

53 New York's ... Island

55 "Backdraft" crime

56 Wing it

57 Bygone gas brand

58 "Take ... breath"

59 Uncool

61 Spanish appetizer

62 Get an ... effort

64 Get one's point across?

65 Suffix with arbor or ether

66 ... Lanika

68 " ... Beso"

For answers, call 1-800-285-5656, \$1.49 a minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

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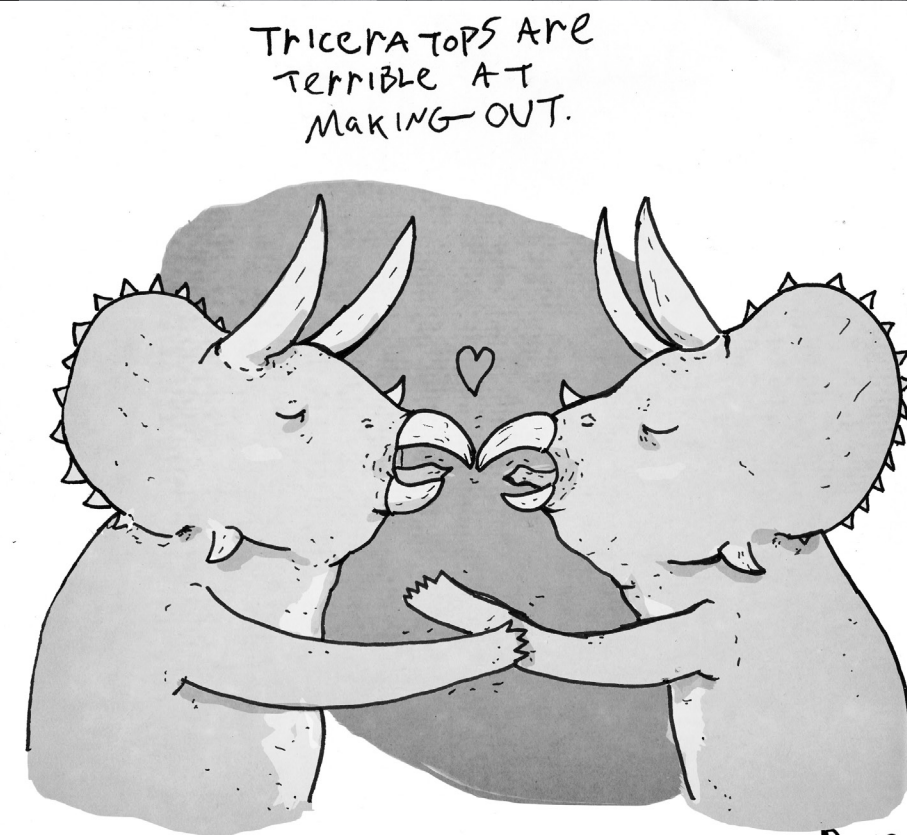
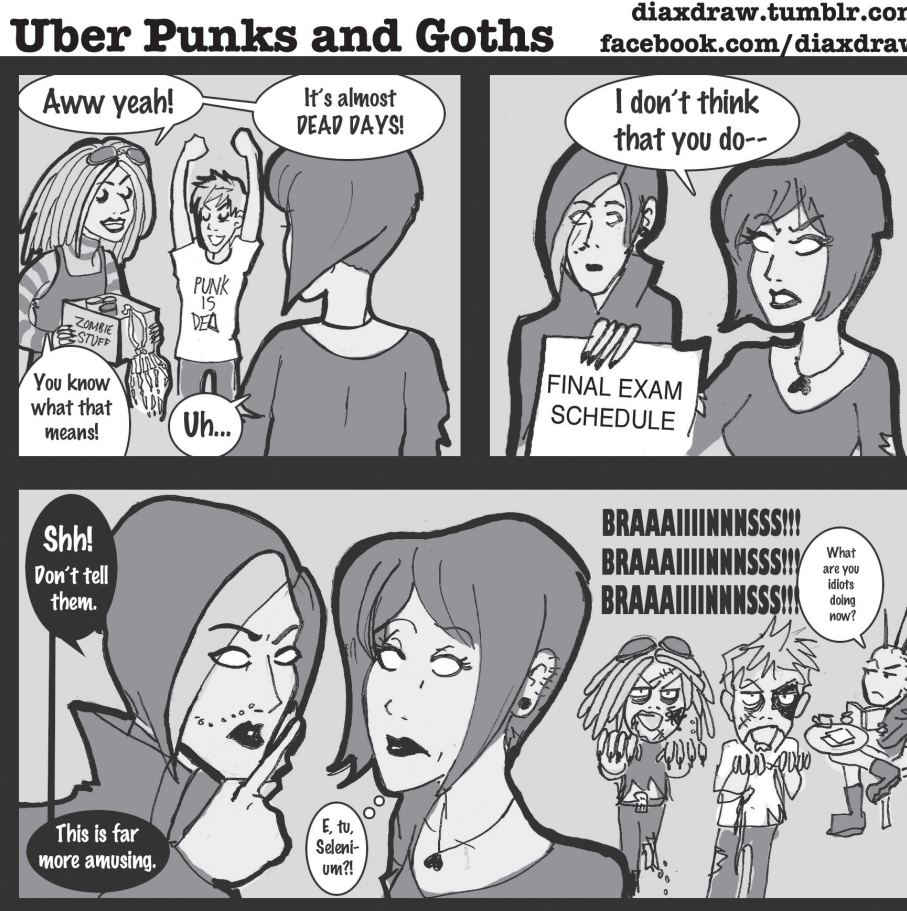
Crosswords for young solvers: nytimes.com/learning/xwords.

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VULCAN VIDEO



SUDOKUFORYOU

Today's solution will appear here tomorrow

4	7		9	2	
	3		9	1	
	7	1		4	
6		2		1	9
		3	6	4	
2	8		5		7
6			2	3	
1		5		8	
7	9		1	5	

3	4	1	2	5	7	8	6	9
8	9	6	4	3	1	5	2	7
2	7	5	6	8	9	3	4	1
7	5	2	9	4	8	1	3	6
4	3	9	1	7	6	2	5	8
6	1	8	3	2	5	7	9	4
5	6	3	8	1	4	9	7	2
9	8	7	5	6	2	4	1	3
1	2	4	7	9	3	6	8	5



CAMPUS

## ESL classes offer relaxing learning environment

By Laura Wright

For Rundong Du, a first year mathematics graduate student, the two “happiest times of the week” are 12:30-2 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, when he joins 10 other graduate students in a small UTC classroom for Alison McGregor’s English as a Second Language course.

Du is one of the many foreign graduate students who come to UT with limited English skills and must take ESL classes from the university’s international office. Michael T. Smith, director of ESL services at UT, said supporting international students at the University so they can be successful either as students or TAs is one of the main purposes of the ESL program.

“There is no large research university that doesn’t have ESL programs of some kind for a variety of reasons,” Smith said.

ESL services support international students, provide teaching experiences for students who aspire to teach ESL students and provide ESL classes to non-degree seeking students and members of the local community.

State law mandates that any TA who will have classroom contact with Texas residents must undergo English screening services. While technically, international graduate students without English fluency could choose to not take the classes, they would be out of a TA job, which is, for many, their only source of income. For all practical purposes, the courses are required.

Upon entering UT, Du was required to take an oral English assessment and an



Yaguang Zhu | Daily Texan Staff

Mechanical engineering graduate student Youngmok Yun explains a problem on a chalkboard during his TA session at the ETC on Wednesday afternoon. Yun attends the ESL program for international TAs, which provides an environment for them to practice pronunciation and teaching strategies.

online workshop, the former of which tested his ability to speak about his subject and introduce himself to his class. The online workshop focused on understanding the classroom culture in the United States.

That classroom culture, Du said, is decidedly different from the culture he experienced in China, where he grew up in the city of Hefei.

“I feel more free here,” Du said. “I have less pressure.”

For Youngmok Yun, a

mechanical engineering graduate student and a fellow student in McGregor’s ESL class, the biggest difference between UT and his undergraduate institution is the size.

“UT is really huge,” Yun said.

That’s why Yun appreciates the small size of the ESL class. Before taking the class, he lacked a community to talk about the problems of being a TA. The class gave him and the other students (all of whom are international TAs)

a place to share teaching strategies, even though the class focuses on learning the English language.

“Before the class, when I taught alone, it was very difficult for me,” Yun said. “When I talked with the other TAs in the ESL class, they told me that one good strategy is to call students’ names and ask specific questions to specific students.”

The ESL class is also one of the few places where the TAs receive honest feedback

about their pronunciation, as many native speakers are shy about correcting a non-native speaker’s grammar.

“My students are sometimes kind of afraid of me,” Du said. “I was asking them to correct my pronunciation but their reaction is like I’m asking them to explain something during lecture. They are frightened and don’t understand that I’m just asking them to correct my pronunciation.”

Luckily, professors in the

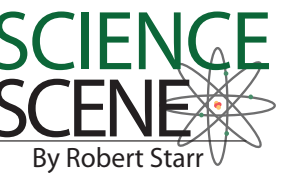
ESL program are not afraid to point out mistakes in usage, but hours in the classroom alone cannot bring the international student’s English up to speed. Though the class is a place where, according to Du, “you’re never blamed, you never feel frightened,” it is also not the place where real English learning occurs.

“We’ve had lots of success stories,” Smith said. “But

ESL continues on page 8

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## Birth weight genes broadly identified



By Robert Starr

We often wonder what makes us who we are: is it the genes our parents gave us, the way they raised us or, perhaps, something else entirely? The more scientists look into the subject, the more it seems that the answer is all of the above.

A recent study, which took data from nearly 70,000 people of European, Arab, Asian and African-American descent, confirmed three genes and discovered four more that are associated with birth weight. These genes don’t exist in a vacuum, however, and the study also noted connections between two of these genes and type 2 diabetes, a separate two with height as an adult and with adult blood pressure. Of course, as with all genetic research, it should be noted that these are only associations — detection of a particular gene is not, except in a few very specific cases, a guarantee that a particular person will have a given trait. Still, the research will

hopefully lead to a better understanding of how to address growth problems during pregnancies as well as the effects that our genes have on our lives.

Officially Certifiable

For the first time in nearly 20 years, psychologists are getting a new edition of their bible, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders. The American Psychiatric Association finalized the DSM-5 this week, along with its numerous changes, the most controversial of which is the removal of Asperger’s syndrome as a distinct condition, and redefining it instead as an autism spectrum disorder. Many say the traits of Asperger’s — which include weak social skills, but often very strong mental abilities — don’t fit those of autism, and fear that this could result in students with the syndrome missing out on the special services many schools provide. Other significant changes include the dropping of the uncomfortable and dated term “gender identity disorder,” replacing it with gender dysphoria, and the

SCIENCE continues on page 8

HEALTH



Yoga instructor Suresh Venkumananti teaches UT students and faculty members to relax through yoga in times of high stress like finals week. The free class is an initiative of the Art of Living UT and Monday will be the last opportunity to attend.

Fanny Trang  
Daily Texan Staff

## Don’t suffer from finals stress; do yoga!

By Jasmin Castanon

While the 2 a.m. Wendy’s run for french fries and a Frosty is a frequent and tempting stress-management method for many UT students during finals, there is a healthier way to cope with the strain the ensuing weeks will inevitably bring: yoga. Art of Living UT, an organization based on the global Art of Living Foundation, offers stress management workshops and conducts service initiatives around the world. Its mission is to help individuals get rid of stress and find inner peace. Art of Living UT promotes these same teachings at UT through free yoga and meditation classes for all students throughout the semester. The UT organization will hold its final yoga session of the semester Monday,

giving students the perfect study break before finals officially begin.

According to the UT Counseling and Mental Health Center’s Stress Management and Reduction website, the practice of yoga “enhances flexibility, tones the muscles, releases tension and improves mood.” If yoga is practiced regularly it can have an enormous impact on one’s stress levels. The website also states that students should not be discouraged if they struggle with certain poses at first because their flexibility and strength will improve through continuous practice. People practicing yoga must listen to their body and not force themselves into any yoga position or pose that feels unnatural. This could lead to serious injury, which would inevitably result in added stress

It is about getting in touch with your breath and body so you can clear your head because if you are really focusing on your breath and body, there is no room for you to freak out or stress.

Katelyn Wood, yoga instructor

and tension.

Katelyn Wood, UT graduate student and yoga instructor at BFree Yoga Austin, described yoga as a union of breath, body, mind and spirit.

“It is about getting in touch with your breath and body so you can clear your head because if you are really focusing on your breath and body, there is no room for you to freak out or stress,” Wood said. “Additionally, we all hold stress in our body and physical posture and certain stretches help release

this stress.”

Sophomore Meghan Enright said that yoga is a major stress reliever for her, and that it helps her focus on her work.

“It is a good, calming study break,” Enright said. “I practice twice a day because I have a very active and anxious mind and it helps to connect my mind, body and soul.”

Enright said that the main reason yoga helps her relieve stress is because it allows her to actually take

YOGA continues on page 8

Watch out!

Science Scene videos are on the Interwebs!

[bit.ly/dt\\_sci6](http://bit.ly/dt_sci6)